

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 97

Introduced by Assembly Member Shirley Horton

April 28, 2003

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 97—Relative to Armed Forces Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 97, as introduced, Shirley Horton. Armed Forces Day.

This measure would acknowledge May 17, 2003, as Armed Forces Day, and urge all citizens to participate in activities held in conjunction with the observance.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, President Harry S. Truman led the effort to
2 establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank
3 our military members for their patriotic service in support of our
4 country; and

5 WHEREAS, On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis
6 Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to
7 replace separate Army, Navy, and Air Force Days. The single day
8 celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces
9 under one department—the Department of Defense; and

10 WHEREAS, In a speech announcing the formation of the day,
11 President Truman praised the work of the military services at home
12 and across the seas and called the military's work "vital to the
13 security of the nation and to the establishment of a desirable
14 peace"; and

1 WHEREAS, In an excerpt from the Presidential Proclamation
2 of February 27, 1950, Mr. Truman stated: “Armed Forces Day,
3 Saturday, May 20, 1950, marks the first combined demonstration
4 by America’s defense team of its progress, under the National
5 Security Act, towards the goal of readiness for any eventuality”;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, There are several purposes for holding Armed
8 Forces Day. It is a type of “educational program for civilians,” and
9 promotes an increased awareness of the Armed Forces. It is
10 designed to expand public understanding of what types of jobs our
11 servicemen perform and the role of the military in civilian life. It
12 is a day for the military to show the civilian population the
13 “state-of-the-art” equipment that the military uses to protect all
14 Americans. It is a day to honor and acknowledge the people of the
15 Armed Forces of the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, Armed Forces Day is celebrated by parades, open
17 houses, receptions, and air shows. All across the country, the
18 American people join together to honor the Armed Forces; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
22 recognizes May 17, 2003, as Armed Forces Day in California and
23 urges all citizens to participate in appropriate activities held in
24 conjunction with this observance; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy
26 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

